

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/14/stories/2009081455621000.htm>

NEW DELHI: India has termed “regrettable” the move by the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** to ask U.S. President Barack Obama to urge India to take new measures to promote communal harmony and prevent communal violence.

In its India report, it also asked the U.S. administration to ensure that all Indian political parties and religious or social organisations publicly denounce violence against and harassment of religious minorities, women, and low-caste members, and to acknowledge that such violence constitute a crime under Indian law.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Vishnu Prakash said: “India, a country of 1.1 billion people, is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. Aberrations, if any, are dealt with promptly within our legal framework, under the watchful eye of an independent judiciary and a vigilant media.”